

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

**United China Relief Records, 1943–1949**



Image Credit: Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
at Union Theological Seminary, NYC

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, April 2010

Updates by Brigitte C. Kamsler, October 2012 with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

**Summary Information**

Creator: United China Relief; United Service to China [after October 1946]  
Title: United China Relief Records, 1943–1949  
Dates: 1943–1949  
Abstract: United China Relief, known from 1946 as United Service to China, was a cooperative association of aid agencies active in China during the Second World War and immediate post-war era. Includes transcripts, reports, meeting minutes and correspondence.  
Size: 1 box, 0.50 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-851-5612  
Fax: 212-851-5613  
Email: [archives@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu)

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance:** These records were part of the independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when the records were accessioned to the Burke Library. The transcripts in folders 2-5 were donated by Mrs. E.M. Williams of Topeka, Kansas at an unknown date between 1949 and 1976.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email [archives@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu), as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 6: United China Relief Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

**History**

United China Relief (UCR) was an important focal point of the American partnership with Nationalist Chinese forces in the war in East Asia. It was founded in 1941 as a cooperative organization of American relief agencies operating in China, and within the first year was able to generate more total funds raised than the agencies had previously been able to raise separately.

In 1943 it joined forces with the National War Fund, which had committees based in major cities in the United States, and by the end of the war in 1945 had switched its focus to more long-term rebuilding projects in China. It was partly this shift in mission that prompted the organization to change its name to United Service to China (USC) in mid-1946.

Its post-war efforts to raise money for China were not, however, very successful, and at the end of 1950 the decision was made to cease operations, and to put all remaining funds into a reserve account. By 1965 it was clear that the organization was defunct and it was dissolved at the end of the next year, with the remaining funds being distributed to cooperating agencies. In total, UCR/USC raised over \$52 million for China aid.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The first part of the collection consists of transcripts from a series of fifteen radio broadcasts called "Speaking of China", in which the situation in China and its need for aid was discussed. The transcripts included in this collection are:

1. "The Wisdom of China," Dr. Lin Yutang and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore
2. "Covering China by Ricksha and Airplane," Mr. John Goette and Miss Josephine Duvall
3. "The Art of China," Mr. Alan Priest and Mrs. Ruth Pratt
4. "The Strategy of the China War," Robert Bellaire and Russell Whelan
5. Government System [of China], Dr. Lin Mou-Sheng and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore
7. "The Inventiveness of China," Miss Sze Mai-mai and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore

9. "The Music of China," Mr. Liu Liang-mo, Elisabeth Kingham and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore
10. "The Humor of China," Pearl S. Buck
11. "The Political and Economic Future of China," James L. McConaughy and Nathaniel Pepper
14. "Understanding and the appreciation which exists between the people of the new world of America and the ancient world of China," Mrs. Maurice T. Moore and Dr. B. A. Carside
15. "China and the War," Dr. David de Sola Pool and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore

The second part of the collection, which was reincorporated in 2010, consists of official meeting minutes, reports, and correspondence produced by the organization. Information on and topics of discussion include work with refugees, children, soldiers, medical aid, education and industry.

Active members of the organization who routinely attended executive committee meetings held in New York City included Henry P. Van Dusen, Cornelius V. Starr and Henry R. Luce.

### **Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed.

### **Further Resources**

The main collection of archival records relating to UCR/USC is the United Service to China Records, 1934-1967, held at Princeton University Library; finding aid:

<http://findingaids.princeton.edu/collections/MC135>. There are collections at Yale University Library and Yale Divinity School Library, [http://www.library.yale.edu/special\\_collections/](http://www.library.yale.edu/special_collections/), and lastly a collection in the New York Public Library: <http://www.nypl.org/ead/1983>.

Edward Hicks Hume, who was part of the committee which promoted the establishment of this organization, is represented in the MRL collections, although the main collection of his papers is to be found at Yale University Libraries. More information on MRL collections can be found through the archives website at:

<http://library.columbia.edu/content/libraryweb/indiv/burke/archives/mrl.html>.

**Contents list**

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Correspondence and Contents List Re: Radio Broadcast Transcripts: "Speaking of China", 1943
1	2	Transcript: "Speaking of China" No. 1, 1943
1	3	Transcripts: "Speaking of China" Nos. 2-3, 1943
1	4	Transcripts: "Speaking of China," Nos. 4-5, 1943
1	5	Transcripts: "Speaking of China" Nos. 7, 9-10, 1943
1	6	Transcripts: "Speaking of China" Nos. 11, 14-15, 1943
1	7	UCR Program Division: Reports, December 1943-October 1944
1	8	UCR Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary, Reports, February-October 1944
1	9	UCR Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary, July 1945-August 1946
1	10	UCR By-Laws First Draft, January 1946
1	11	USC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary, October 1946-February 1949
1	12	Summary of Assistance Rendered by UCR Funds, 1941-1945
1	13	Correspondence Re: Name Change to United Service to China, July 1946
1	14	USC Program Division, Reports, 1947
1	15	USC Bulletins to Local Committees, 1947